



**TOWN OF PELHAM
PUBLIC LIBRARY**



Annual Report 2018



Above: one of our popular family programs. In 2018, the Library's events drew a total of 8,990 people. Right: the library's renovated parking lot entrance.

Dear Pelham Patrons,
Our mission is to provide you with the finest free public library materials and services obtainable as well as a community space dedicated to lifelong learning. The Town of Pelham Public Library supports the principles of intellectual freedom and the public's right to know by providing people of all ages and abilities, and from all backgrounds, with access and guidance to information, collections and services that reflect diverse points of view.

This is your library.

Patricia Perito, Library Director



Milestones

In 2018, we continued to improve the Library building to make it accessible to all. With funds from a New York State Library Construction Grant, the Library repaired the ADA-compliant ramp at the Carol Place entrance and installed automated sliding doors to enable access for people with disabilities. By popular demand, the library obtained mini-grants from the Westchester Library System for a sewing workshop series. In an effort to better meet the needs of our community, the Library embarked on a series of public focus groups. The information gathered from the public is instrumental to our collection development, programming and long-range planning.

PROGRAMS

The Town of Pelham Public Library hosted a total of 428 programs, attended by 8,990 people. The Library has a long history of supporting local authors and artists. Among the more than 100 programs for adults in 2018, the Library hosted Pelham novelist Rachel Cullen to celebrate the publication of her second book (pictured below).



USERS AND VISITORS

The Library issued 622 new library cards in 2018, bringing the total number of library card holders to 5,511. The library was physically visited 82,603 times and there were 33,610 visits to the website. Our seven public-use computer terminals provided 6,060 Internet sessions to our patrons while Library WiFi provided an additional 8,050 wireless sessions during 2018. Museum passes were loaned out 188 times for the year.

CIRCULATION

Circulation of all materials, including eBooks, reached 88,580 check outs in 2018. 20 % of all circulation was non-book materials, representing a shift in patron usage to digital media. In addition to our own collection, the Town of Pelham Public Library borrowed 19,208 items from other libraries in the Westchester Library System to be checked out to Pelham patrons while loaning 11,349 items to other member libraries.

REFERENCE

Pelham librarians responded to 11,349 reference questions in 2018, proving that patrons turn to us as a trusted source of information even in the Internet Age. Additionally, databases such as newspaper archives and *Consumer Reports* provided by the Library were used a total of 6,585 times.

2018 by the Numbers

Number of physical visits to the Library in 2018. Additionally, there were 33,610 visits to the library's website.

82,603

5,511

Number of library card holders. The Library issued 622 new library cards in 2018.

Number of programs hosted by the library for adults and children, which were attended by 8,990 people.

428



6,060

Number of Internet sessions provided by our 7 public-use computer terminals.

Number of wireless sessions provided to our patrons through the Town of Pelham Public Library WiFi.

8,050



Percentage of materials owned by the Library that are non-book (the County average is 43 %).

53%

11,349

Number of reference transactions conducted. Who says the Internet has all the answers?

The Library had the eleventh lowest operating expense of the 38-member Westchester Library System.

11th
Lowest

Who We Are



OPERATING EXPENSES

As a municipal library, the Town of Pelham Public Library is funded primarily by taxes collected by the Town of Pelham. We take our fiscal responsibility seriously and at \$721,274, our operating expenses are the 11th lowest in the 38-member Westchester Library System. As a measure of our productivity, our operating expense per circulating transaction was 30th out of the 38-member system, demonstrating our budget-consciousness while striving to provide high-quality service. The Library was also fortunate to receive grants and gifts, including \$72,515 from the Friends of the Town of Pelham Public Library, which funds ten percent of the operating budget. The Library gratefully thanks all donors and volunteers.

LIBRARY STAFF (as of 12/31/2018)

Director: Patricia Periito

Adult Services Librarian: Augusta Turner

Youth Service Librarian: Oz Coto-Chang

Support Services Supervisor: Irene Kobziar

Clerks: Adam Marciano, Maureen Annunziata, Adrian Coto-Chang, Caroline Coto-Chang, Judy Hellmann, Carl Wadley.

Pages: Jilsana Bakry, George Cisneros

Bookkeeper: Debra Allen

(The library had the equivalent of 8.98 full-time employees.)

TRUSTEES (as of 12/31/2018)

Sandy Angevine, Vice President

Margaret Breuninger, Secretary

Catherine Campbell

Jennifer DeLeonardo

Laura Woods-DiLorenzo

Karen Fellner

Emily Gest

Robert Gimigliano

Samantha Monroe Hinton

Keith Keaveny

Terrence Mullan, President

Town of Pelham Liaison: Dan McLaughlin, Deputy Supervisor

(For a list of current employees and trustees, please visit www.pelhamlibrary.org.)

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Library Director Patricia Perito at 914-738-1234. The Library values feedback from its patrons and the community.